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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/401,382	09/22/1999	LIANG-HUA HSU	99-P-7818-US	4596

7590 11/21/2003

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EXAMINER

YUAN, ALMARI ROMERO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2003

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/401,382

Applicant(s)

HSU ET AL.

Examiner

Almari Yuan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Request for Continued Examination and Amendment filed on 8/27/03.
2. The rejection of claims 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter as been withdrawn based on applicant's remarks filed on 8/27/03.
3. The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodkin in view of Liu et al. has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
4. The rejection of claims 2-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodkin, Liu et al., Sotomayor, and Chang has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
5. Claims 1-26 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 7, 9, 18, 20, and 26 are independent claims.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

6. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/23/03 has been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

7. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-17 set forth non-functional descriptive material but fail to set forth physical structures or materials comprising of hardware or a combination of hardware and software within the technological arts (i.e. a computer) to produce a “useful, concrete and tangible” result. For example, Claims 1, 7, and 9, the “system” reads on a mental construct/abstract idea or at best a computer program, per se. The language such as “static hyperlinking”, “partial hyperlinking”, “dynamic hyperlinking”, “anchor generator”, “semi-link generator”, “source identifier”, “link management”, etc., does not clearly define structural elements and are not tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium. Claims 1-17 are interpreted as software per se, abstract ideas or mental construct and not tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium or hardware.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claim 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodkin et al. (USPN 6,092,074 – filing date: 02/1998) in view of Liu et al. (USPN 5,794,257 – filing date 08/1998), and further in view of Foss et al. (USPN 5,404,534 issued on 04/1995).**

**Regarding independent claim 1**, Rodkin discloses:

A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising:

source-level partial hyperlinking (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage);

source-level dynamic hyperlinking (Rodkin on col. 2, lines 42-58 and col. 3, lines 26-34: teaches dynamic linking);

static hyperlinking (Rodkin on col. 2, lines 17-29 and lines 42-58: teaches static linking)

However, Rodkin does not explicitly disclose, “intermediate links” and “incremental hyperlinking”.

Liu et al. (Liu) on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links (intermediate links) and on col. 2, lines 6-14: teaches hyperlink incrementally.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin to provide a way to chain links and link incrementally, as taught by Liu, incorporated into the hyperlinking process of a document, as taught by Rodkin, in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

However, Rodkin and Liu do not explicitly disclose “source identifier and a source anchor generator support the incremental hyperlinking and the source-level dynamic hyperlinking”.

Foss et al. (Foss) discloses a source identifier and a source anchor generator to support hyperlinking on col. 1, lines 39-44 teaches navigation links also called hypertext link is a bridge between anchors; on col. 7, lines 30-53 and col. 8, lines 57-62 teaches source anchor identifier;

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on col. 5, lines 19-26 teaches managing a plurality of links, linking a plurality of anchors managed and manipulated by an anchor maker process (anchor generator to support hypertext links); and col. 12, lines 31-47 teaches source anchor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Foss into Rodkin and Liu to provide a way to manage a plurality of links by using source anchor identifier and anchor maker process, as taught by Foss, incorporated into the hyperlinking process, as taught by Rodkin and Liu, in order to facilitate the creation and management of links.

10. **Claims 2-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodkin et al in view of Liu et al., and further in view of Foss et al., and further in view of Chang (USPN 5,694,594 – issued on 12/1997).**

**Regarding dependent claim 2**, Rodkin, Liu, and Foss disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Rodkin discloses:

wherein said source-level partial hyperlinking comprises: an initial semi-link generator (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage).

However, Rodkin do not explicitly disclose “link management”.

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a link manager, as taught by Chang, incorporated into hyperlink generation system, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform link generation.

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**Regarding dependent claim 3**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the invention

substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a link browser for interpreting hyperlinks that have been fully or partially generated (Chang on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing and on col. 6, lines 17-65: teaches all generated links are transferred to the link manager to be displayed to user's computer; the user reviews the contents of the links (link browsing by the user and when the links are displayed to the user they are interpreted as fully generated); and

a document browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a link browser and document browser, as taught by Chang, incorporated into hyperlink generation system, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform link generation.

**Regarding dependent claim 4**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the invention

substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Liu discloses:

an intermediate destination identifier (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links (intermediate links) from identifying destination);

a destination identifier (Foss on col. 8, lines 57-62 teaches: destination anchor identifier).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Foss-Chang to provide a way to chain links and identifying the destination, as taught by Liu, incorporated into the hyperlinking process

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of a document, as taught by Rodkin-Foss-Chang, in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Foss do not explicitly disclose “final link generator”.

Chang on col. 6, lines 52-65: teaches final link generation.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide final link generation, as taught by Chang, incorporated into the hyperlinking process, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to interactively complete the generation of links.

**Regarding dependent claim 5**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. Liu discloses:

an intermediate anchor generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links) which link my comprise anchor);

an intermediate link generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Foss-Chang to provide a way to generate chain links with anchors, as taught by Liu, incorporated into the hyperlinking process, as taught by Rodkin-Foss-Chang in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

**Regarding dependent claim 6**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a link database (Chang on col. 9, lines 50-56: teaches link database).



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It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a link database for storing links, as taught by Chang, incorporated into the hyperlinking process, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss which will provide an efficient hypertext system associating hypertext links with stored attributes.

**Regarding independent claim 7**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. Rodkin discloses:

A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising:

an initial semi-link generator (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage); and

a source identifier and a source anchor generator support hyperlinking (Foss on col. 1, lines 39-44 teaches navigation links also called hypertext link is a bridge between anchors; on col. 7, lines 30-53 and col. 8, lines 57-62 teaches source anchor identifier; on col. 5, lines 19-26 teaches managing a plurality of links, linking a plurality of anchors managed and manipulated by an anchor maker process (anchor generator to support hypertext links); and col. 12, lines 31-47 teaches source anchor).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Foss into Rodkin-Liu-Chang to provide a way to manage a plurality of links by using source anchor identifier and anchor maker process, as taught by Foss, incorporated into the hyperlinking process, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Chang, in order to facilitate the creation and management of links.

However, Rodkin-Liu-Foss do not explicitly disclose "link management".

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Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a link manager, as taught by Chang, incorporated into hyperlink generation system, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform link generation.

**Regarding dependent claims 8 and 17**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses:

a link browser for interpreting hyperlinks that have been fully or partially generated (Chang on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing and on col. 6, lines 17-65: teaches all generated links are transferred to the link manager to be displayed to user's computer; the user reviews the contents of the links (link browsing by the user and when the links are displayed to the user they are interpreted as fully generated); and

a document browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a link browser and document browser, as taught by Chang, incorporated into hyperlink generation system, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform link generation.

**Regarding independent claim 9**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Foss discloses:

A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising:

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a source identifier and a source anchor generator support hyperlinking (Foss on col. 1, lines 39-44 teaches navigation links also called hypertext link is a bridge between anchors; on col. 7, lines 30-53 and col. 8, lines 57-62 teaches source anchor identifier; on col. 5, lines 19-26 teaches managing a plurality of links, linking a plurality of anchors managed and manipulated by an anchor maker process (anchor generator to support hypertext links); and col. 12, lines 31-47 teaches source anchor).

an intermediate destination identifier (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links (intermediate links) from identifying destination);

a destination identifier (Foss on col. 8, lines 57-62 teaches: destination anchor identifier).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Foss-Chang to provide a way to generate chain links with anchors, as taught by Liu, incorporated into the hyperlinking process, as taught by Rodkin-Foss-Chang in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Foss do not explicitly disclose "final link generator". Chang on col. 6, lines 52-65: teaches final link generation.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide final link generation, as taught by Chang, incorporated into the hyperlinking process, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to interactively complete the generation of links.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Foss do not explicitly disclose "link management".

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a link manager, as taught by Chang, incorporated into hyperlink generation system, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform link generation.

**Regarding dependent claim 10**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Liu discloses:

an intermediate anchor generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links) which link my comprise anchor);

an intermediate link generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Foss-Chang to provide a way to generate chain links with anchors, as taught by Liu, incorporated into the hyperlinking process, as taught by Rodkin-Foss-Chang in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

**Regarding dependent claim 11**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses “link management”:

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a link manager, as taught by Chang, incorporated into hyperlink generation system, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform link generation.

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**Regarding dependent claim 12**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses:

a link database (Chang on col. 9, lines 50-56: teaches link database).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a link database for storing links during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document which will provide an efficient hypertext system associating hypertext links with stored attributes.

**Regarding dependent claim 13**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Rodkin discloses:

an initial, intermediate, and final semi-link generator (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage to generate linkable character string).

**Regarding dependent claim 14**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a link browser for interpreting hyperlinks that have been fully or partially generated (Chang on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing and on col. 6, lines 17-65: teaches all generated links are transferred to the link manager to be displayed to user's computer; the user reviews the contents of the links (link browsing by the user and when the links are displayed to the user they are interpreted as fully generated)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a link browsing, as taught by Chang, incorporated into hyperlink generation system, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform link generation.

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**Regarding dependent claim 15**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a document browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Foss to provide a document browser, as taught by Chang, incorporated into hyperlink generation system, as taught by Rodkin-Liu-Foss in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform link generation.

**Regarding dependent claim 16**, Rodkin, Liu, Foss, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Rodkin, Foss, and Chang do not explicitly disclose "link interpreter".

Liu on col. 2, lines 65-67: teaches link interpreter.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Foss-Chang to provide a link interpreter, as taught by Liu, incorporated into the hyperlink generation system, as taught by Rodkin-Foss-Chang, in order to perform to proper actions when user clicks on a hyperlink.

**Regarding claims 17 - 25**, the limitations of claims 17 - 25 are a method for processing in the system of claims 2 -16 and are rejected under the same rationale.

**Regarding independent claim 26**, the limitations of independent claim 26 comprises the same limitations of claims 2 -16 and is rejected under the same rationale.

***Response to Arguments***

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

A) Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 12:

Referring to 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection, Claims 1-17 are interpreted as software per se, abstract ideas or mental construct and not tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium or hardware.

B) Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 13:

Referring to claim 1, Foss et al. does disclose "a source identifier and a source anchor generator to support hyperlinking" on col. 1, lines 39-44 teaches navigation links also called hypertext link is a bridge between anchors; on col. 7, lines 30-53 and col. 8, lines 57-62 teaches source anchor identifier; on col. 5, lines 19-26 teaches managing a plurality of links, linking a plurality of anchors managed and manipulated by an anchor maker process (anchor generator to support hypertext links); and col. 12, lines 31-47 teaches source anchor.

C) Regarding Applicant's remarks on pages 13-14:

Referring to claim 3, Chang does disclose "a link browser for interpreting hyperlinks that have been fully or partially generated" on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing and on col. 6, lines 17-65: teaches all generated links are transferred to the link manager to be displayed to user's computer; the user reviews the contents of the links (link browsing by the user and when the links are displayed to the user they are interpreted as fully generated).

Chang does disclose "a document browser" on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser (browsing documents).

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D) Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 14:

Referring to claims 4 and 5, Foss does disclose "a destination identifier" on col. 8, lines 57-62 teaches: destination anchor identifier.

***Conclusion***

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almari Yuan whose telephone number is (703) 305-5945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays - Fridays (8:30am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

AY  
November 14, 2003

  
JOSEPH H. FEILD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER